

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): An artist supporting and mediating system comprising:

one or more pre-registered artists;

one or more supporters, said supporter being distinct from said pre-registered artist ;

a vote accepting computer that accepts votes from said one or more supporters ~~supporter of~~ for said pre-registered artists or their artistic works; a fee collecting computer that handles a process of charging fees to said supporters according to numbers of votes cast and a predetermined unit fee per vote; a vote tabulating computer that tabulates votes for each of said pre-registered artists or said artistic work; and a support fund distributing computer that distributes support funds to said artist or an artist who produced said artistic work, said support funds being monetary rewards directly proportional ~~corresponding~~ to said number of votes cast for said artist or artistic work based on a predetermined rate.

2. (currently amended): The artist supporting and mediating system described in claim 1 further comprising a dividend distributing computer that distributes dividends to each supporter according to the number of votes cast by said supporter or the number of votes owned by said supporter ~~based on a predetermined condition~~, said dividend entitling said supporter to a predetermined participation in future revenue generated by said artist.

3. (original): The artist supporting and mediating system described in claim 2 wherein said dividend distributing computer distributes dividends when profits generated by artistic activities of said artist match with a predetermined condition.

4. (original): The artist supporting and mediating system described in claims 1 further comprising a vote trade mediating computer that mediates trades of votes owned by said supporters.

5. (original): The artist supporting and mediating system described in claims 1 further comprising a audio/visual distributing service computer that provides a service of audio/visual distribution of artistic works of pre-registered artists to said supporters.

6. (original): The artist supporting and mediating system described in claims 1 further comprising a browsing/searching service computer that provides a service of allowing said supporters to browsing and/or searching attributive data of pre-registered artists.

7- 8 (cancelled).

9 (previously presented): The artist supporting and mediating system of claim 1 further comprising supporters' terminals connected to said system and each said computers are interconnected via a computer network.

10 (previously presented): The artist supporting and mediating system of claim 1 further comprising artists' terminals connected to said system and each said computers are interconnected via a computer network.

11 (currently amended): Artist supporting and mediating system comprising:

- a vote accepting computer that accepts votes from supporters of preregistered artists or their artistic works;

- a fee collecting computer that handles a process of charging fees to said supporters according to numbers of votes cast and a predetermined unit fee per vote;

- a vote tabulating computer that tabulates votes for each artist or artistic work;

- a support fund distributing computer that distributes support funds to said artist or an artist who produced said artistic work, said support funds being monetary rewards directly proportional to corresponding to said number of votes cast for said artist or artistic work based on a predetermined rate; and,

- supporters' terminals connected to said system; and,

- artists' terminals connected to said system, wherein said computers are interconnected via a computer network.